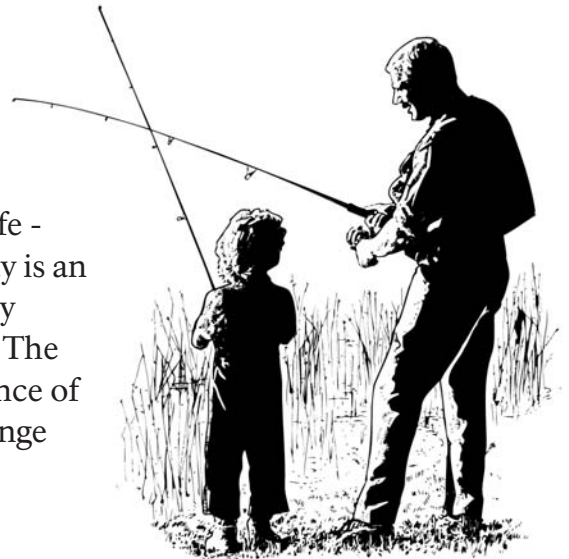




Recreational Fishing

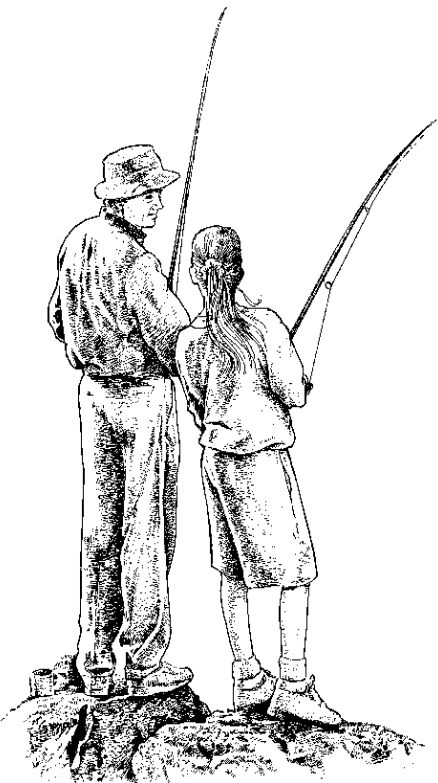
Shenandoah National Park holds an extensive network of mountain streams, tumbling from one into the other in an endless trip to major waterways. All along the way, these streams sustain life - plant, animal, and human. Monitoring and protecting water quality is an essential part of the park's stewardship mission. Visitors who enjoy recreational fishing are also an important element in that mission. The following regulations help protect the park's streams and the balance of the aquatic life so that future generations can also enjoy the challenge of fishing in Shenandoah National Park.



Fishery Management

The Park's Fishery Management Plan has two objectives: (1) to preserve and perpetuate native brook trout as a key component of the park's aquatic ecosystems; and (2) to allow for recreational fishing on those park streams that consistently produce adequate numbers of gamefish for maintaining population stability. Regulations and park policies are designed to carry out these objectives.

Regulations



1. Waters

All streams within Shenandoah National Park, including all tributaries, are open for catch-and-release recreational fishing unless (1) designated as closed or (2) designated as open for harvest. Streams designated as open for harvest are also considered to be open for catch and release fishing. Those streams that are closed or designated for harvest are listed in this brochure.

2. Season

Streams and their tributaries designated as Open for Harvest or Catch and Release are open all year.

3. License

All Virginia residents 16 years and older fishing within the park must have a Virginia state fishing license in possession. A 5-day nonresident license (\$6.50) may be purchased at Big Meadows, and Loft Mountain Waysides, or from local sporting goods stores. Non-residents 12 years and older must have a Virginia license.

4. Size Limit

No trout under 9 inches in length may be kept. Undersized fish must be immediately and carefully returned to the water. Size limits on other species of game fishes are those established by applicable State law.

5. Creel Limits

No person may retain more than 6 trout per day or have more than 6 trout in possession. Creel limits on other species of game fishes are those established by applicable State law.

6. Lures

Only a single-hook (barbed or barbless) artificial lure may be used.

7. Commercial Fishing Guides

Anyone who serves as a fishing guide or instructor for compensation must obtain an Incidental Business Permit from the park superintendent prior to entering the park.

Park Streams Designated as *Open* for Harvest

The following streams, including their tributaries within the Park, are open for harvest fishing in accordance with regulations published in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) and the Virginia State Fishing Regulations.

Streams	County	PATC Map #
Piney River	Rappahannock	# 9
Thornton River, North Fork	Rappahannock	# 9
Thornton River, South Fork	Rappahannock	# 9
Hughes River	Madison	#10
Brokenback Run	Madison	#10
Whiteoak Canyon Run	Madison	#10
Cedar Run	Madison	#10
Rose River	Madison	#10
Conway River	Madison/Greene	#10
South River	Greene	#10
Ivy Creek	Greene	#11
Doyles River	Albemarle	#11
Jeremys Run	Page	# 9
Pass Run	Page	#10
Hawksbill Creek, East	Page	#10
Hawksbill Creek, Little	Page	#10
Naked Creek, East Branch	Page	#10
Naked Creek, West Branch	Page	#10
Big Run	Rockingham	#11
Madison Run	Rockingham	#11
Paine Run	Augusta	#11
Meadow Run	Augusta	#11

Park Streams *Closed* for Fishing

Fishing is *prohibited* at all times on the following streams, including their tributaries. No gamefish species, including trout, may be in possession at any time. These streams have been designated as long-term inventory and monitoring scientific study areas, and must remain undisturbed.

Streams	County	PATC Map #
Dry Run, North Fork	Page	# 10
One Mile Run	Rockingham	# 11

Recreational Fishing Guidelines

Anglers who wish to continue recreational fishing at its finest are encouraged to consider the following ethical fishing techniques for hooked fish:

1. All fish that are to be released must be carefully handled and immediately returned to the stream. Try to release fish without removing them from the water.
2. Maintain control of fish with wet hands and only a slightly firm grip.
3. Most importantly, avoid contact or damage to sensitive gills. The use of barbless hooks minimizes handling of the fish and any related stress.
4. Never leave litter, hooks, or spent fishing line in the park – pack it out.

